

VAMP



n.17

CONWAY
BARBERI
VLASCO

DYNAMITE

John Doe
G. TSANG
12/06/2k1
CDB



Written by
DAVID CONWAY
Pencils by
CARLO BARBERI
Inks by
JUAN VLASCO
Letters by
DAN SARACENI OF KELL-O-GRAPHICS
Colors by
AVALON STUDIOS

Special thanks to
CHRIS CANIANO

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BEAUTIFUL,
ISN'T SHE?

OH. MY.
GOD.

IT...
IT'S...



YES.

QUITE DEAD, I'M AFRAID.



UNLIKE HER BROOD.

THESE MONSTERS ARE YOUR **COUSINS** - GENETICALLY SPEAKING.

LIKE YOU, THEY'VE INHERITED YOUR MOTHER'S PRIMARY CHARACTERISTICS: THEY'RE **VIRTUALLY** INDESTRUCTIBLE.



AND THEIR BLOODLUST IS INSATIABLE.



HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT'S MY... MY MOTHER?!

SINCE YOU SHARE FIFTY PERCENT OF YOUR GENETIC STRUCTURE WITH HER, SHE IS YOUR MOTHER-SPEAKING BOTH BIOLOGICALLY AND, I DARESAY, LEGALLY.



AS FOR WHAT SHE IS - MY BEAUTIFUL **TYRANT QUEEN**, AS I LIKE TO CALL HER - THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS RATHER LESS CLEAR.

SHE WAS DISCOVERED
BURIED IN A GEOLOGICAL
STRATUM THAT PREDATES
THE EMERGENCE OF HOMO
SAPIENS BY SEVERAL
MILLION YEARS.

A MEMBER OF A
HIGHLY-EVOLVED,
INTELLIGENT SPECIES
PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN
TO SCIENCE.

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT
SHE WAS NOT DEAD BUT
MERELY HIBERNATING UNTIL
WE COULD HARVEST HER DNA.

AND DEVELOP AN
ISOTOPIC GENE SERUM...

WHICH
WE USED ON
HUMAN TEST
SUBJECTS.

LIKE YOU.

YOU SICK
BASTARD.

YOU'RE
ACTUALLY PROUD
OF THAT?!

YOUR ENHANCED
AGGRESSION, STRENGTH AND
ACCELERATED HEALING ARE
LEGACIES OF THE TYRANT QUEEN'S
XENOMORPHOLOGY.

YOU ARE
BOTH PRODUCTS
OF A TOP SECRET
MILITARY
PROJECT.

PROUD
OF COURSE I'M
PROUD!
JUST
LOOK AT WHAT
I ACHIEVED.

LOOK AT
YOURSELF-
SO WILD, SO
STRONG.

THE SLEEPING
DRAGON IN YOUR DNA
I ROUSED FROM AEONS
LONG SLUMBER.

INTENDED AS
SENTIENT WEAPONS
SYSTEMS WHICH COULD
BE PROGRAMMED TO
DESTROY SPECIFIC
TARGETS - A PROGRAM
WE CALLED...

...XENOCIDE!

YOU MADE ME BELIEVE I WAS YOUR DAUGHTER. NOW YOU'RE SAYING I'M NOT... AND NOT EVEN HUMAN

WHAT AM I?!

WHAT YOU ARE IS MEANINGLESS NOW.

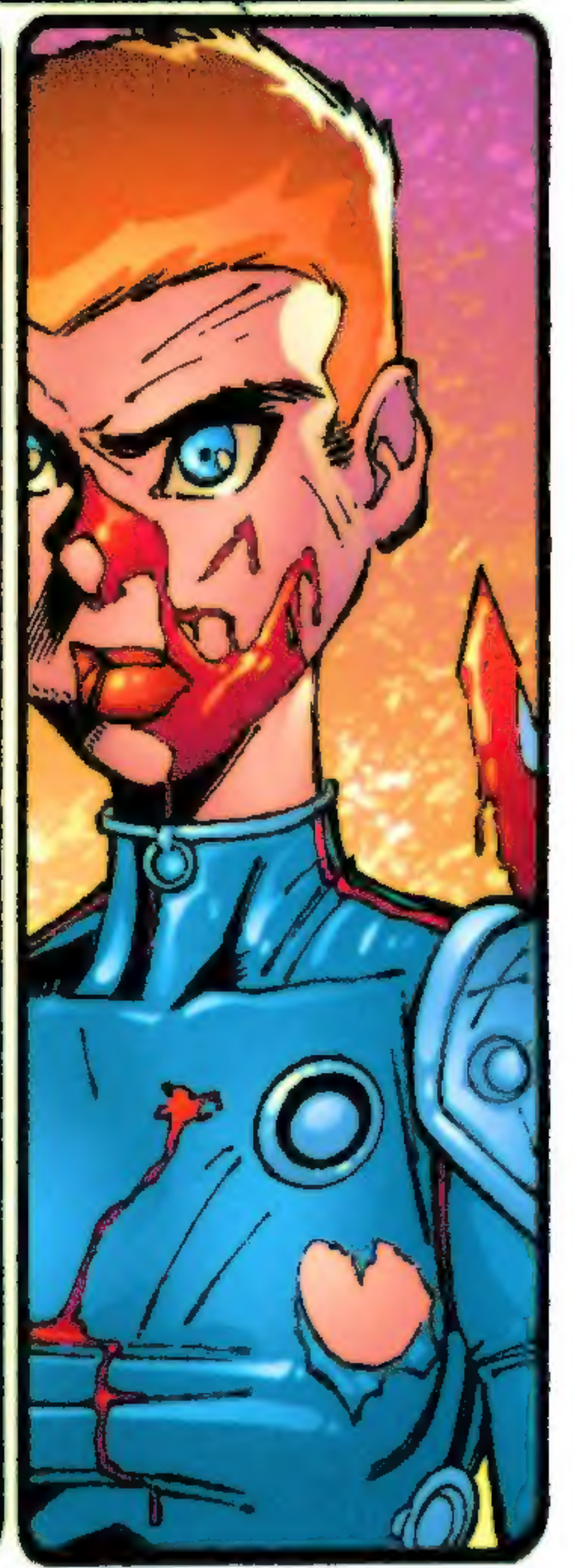
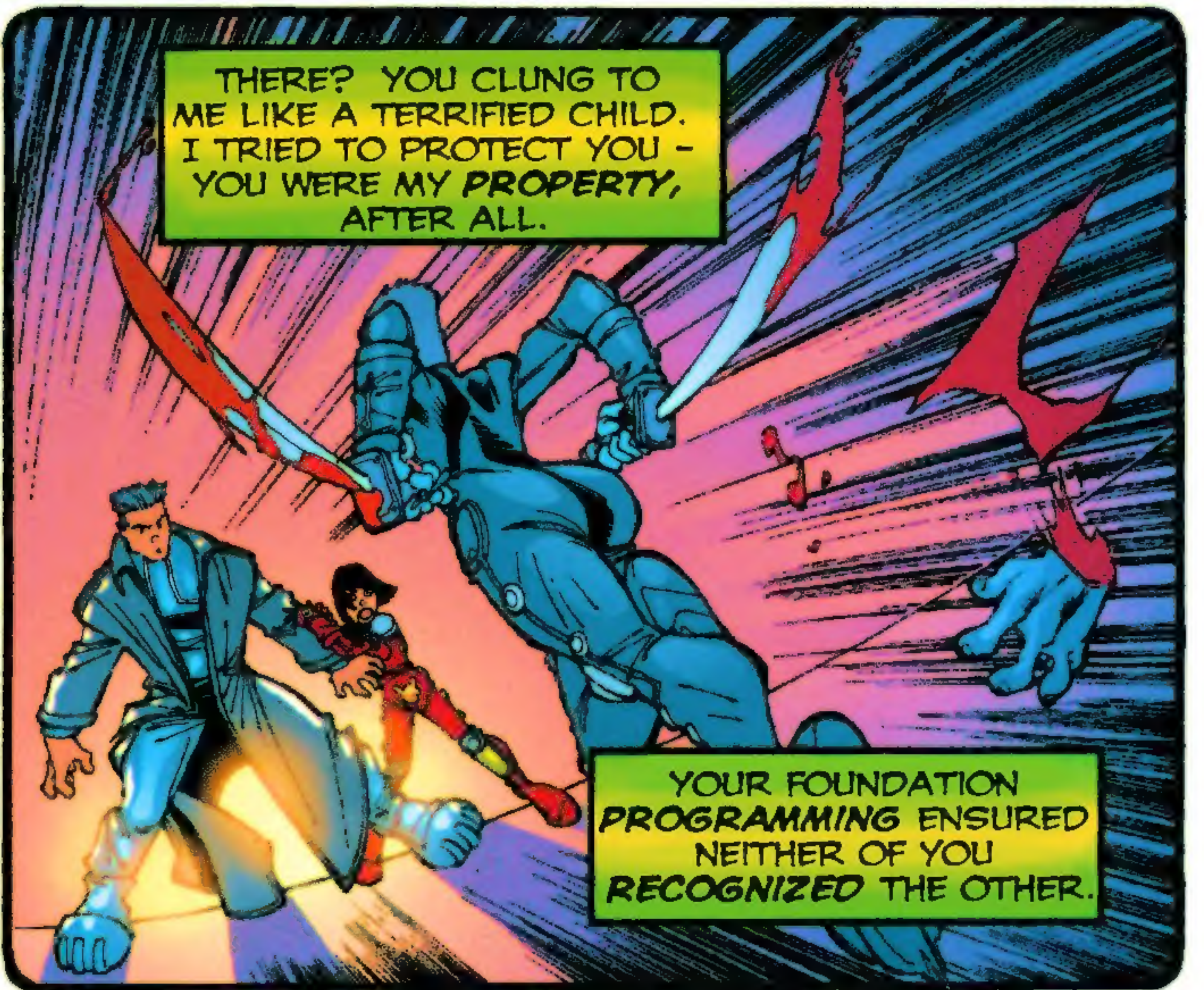
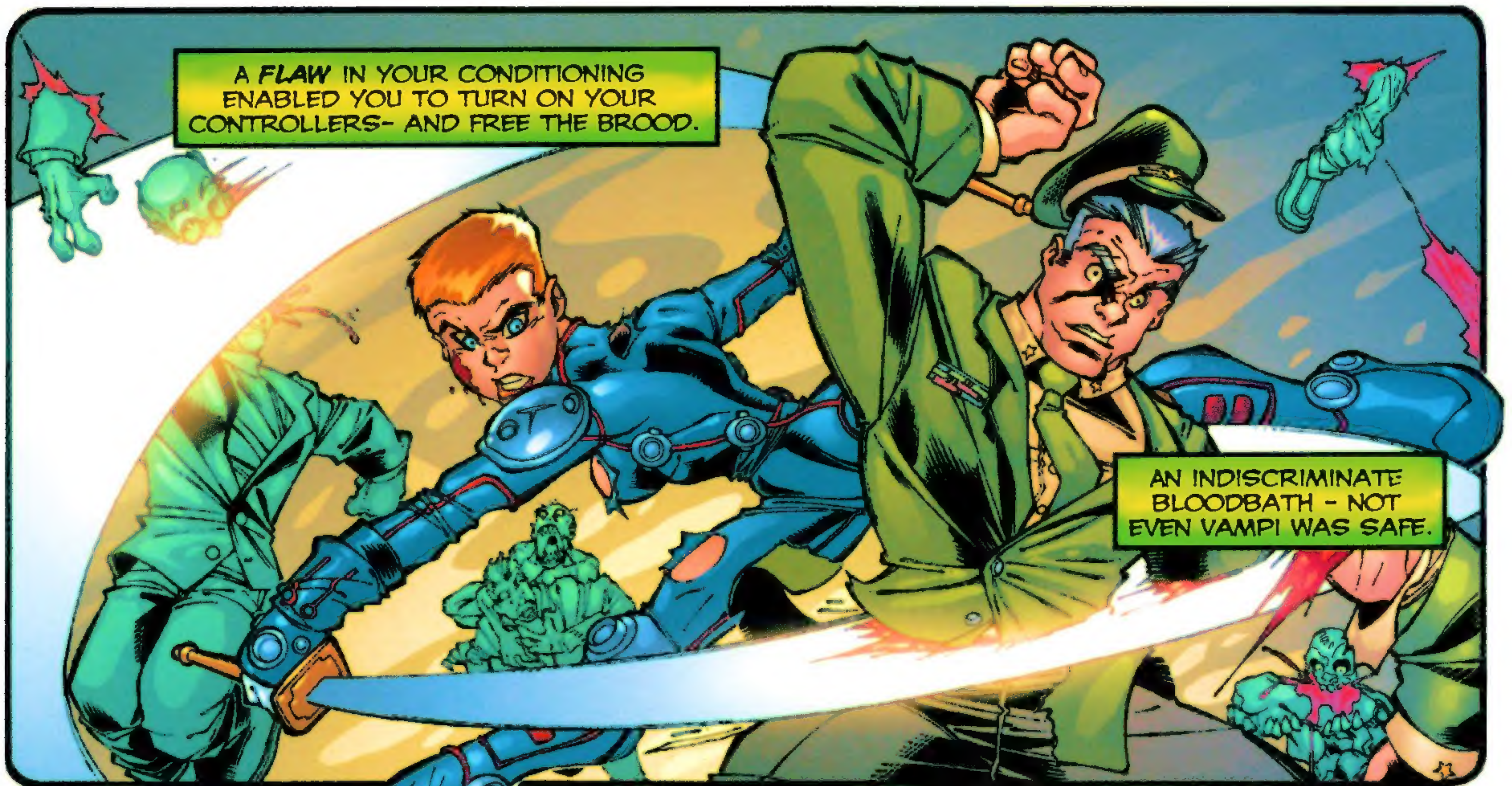
BUT ONCE YOU WERE MY STAR PUPIL.

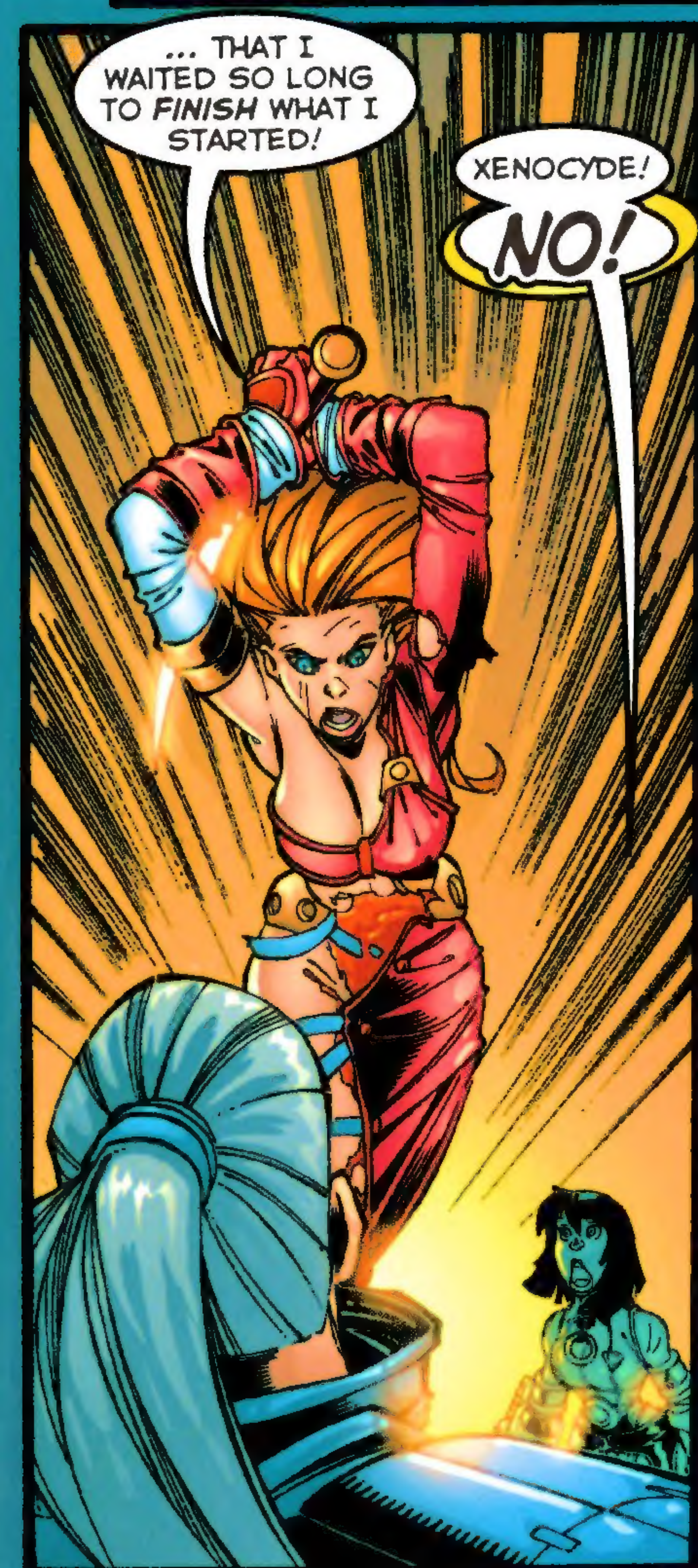
WAS JOINT PARTNER IN A MAJOR BIOTECHNOLOGY CORPORATION THAT RAN THE XENOCIDE PROGRAM --

-- FACED WITH ONE FAILURE AFTER ANOTHER. UNTIL YOU.

THE PROJECT'S GREATEST SUCCESS...

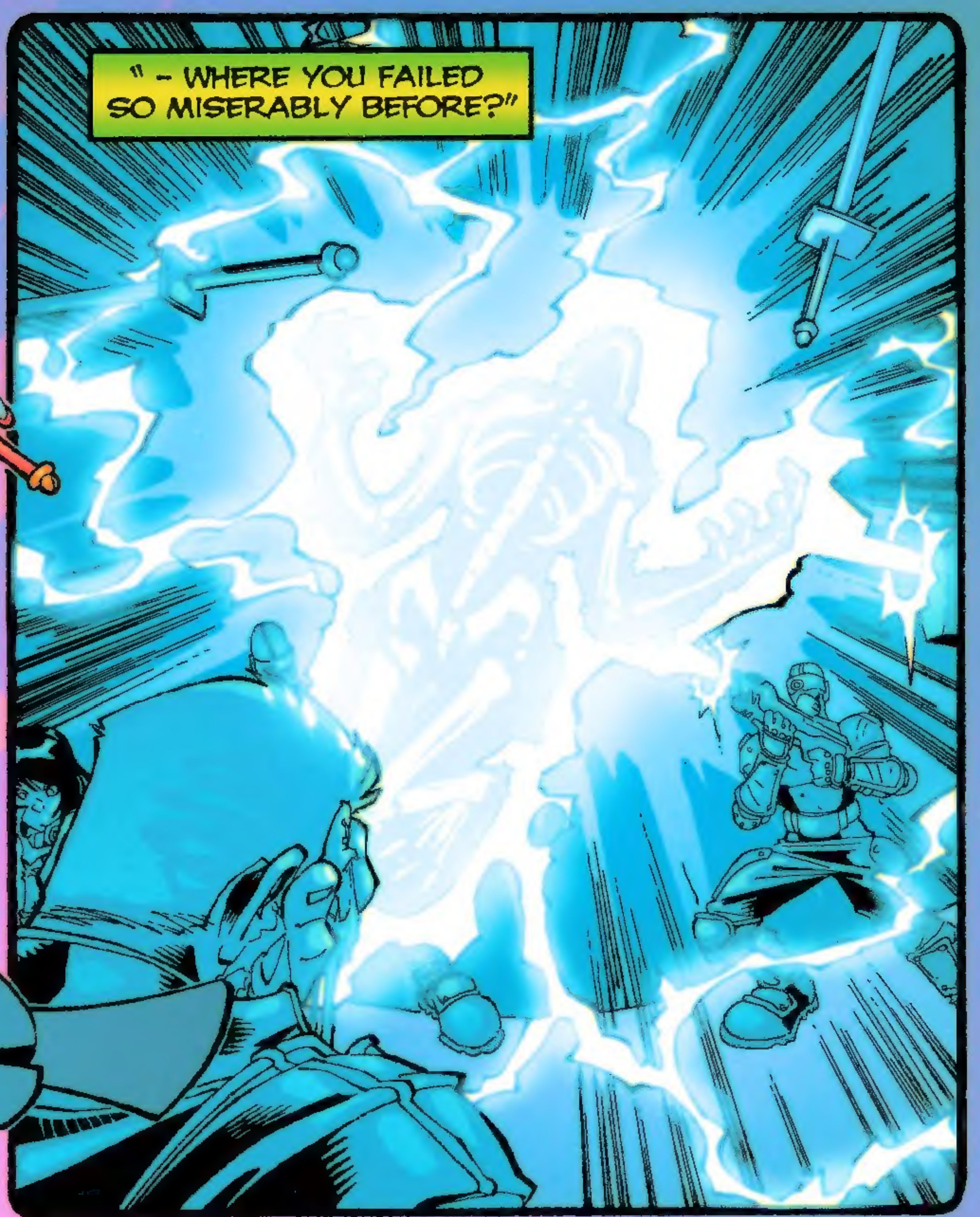
...AND IT'S MOST CATASTROPHIC DISASTER.







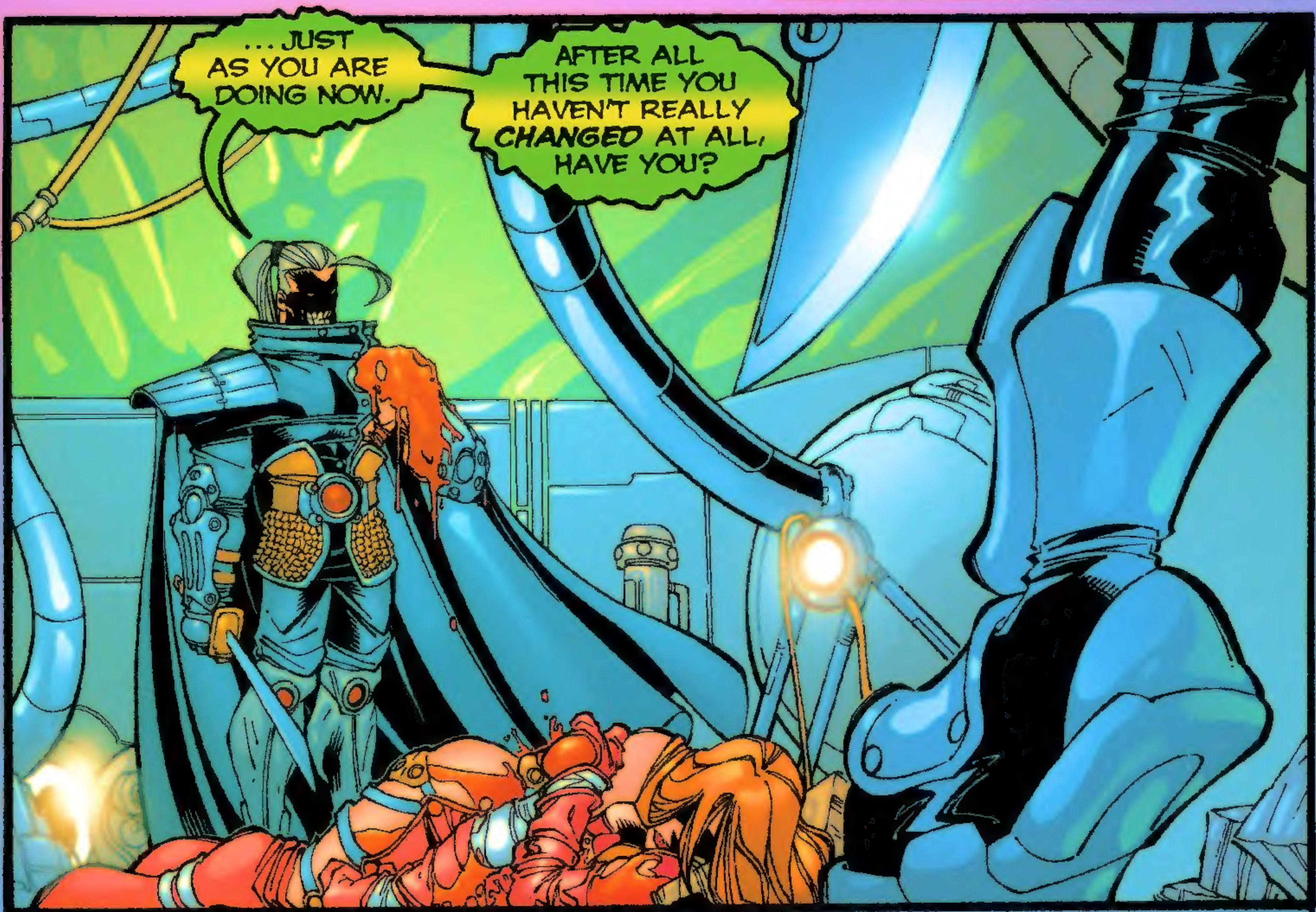
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN SUCCEED NOW--



" - WHERE YOU FAILED SO MISERABLY BEFORE?"



"AND ALL YOU DID WAS WATCH THEN, TOO ...



... JUST AS YOU ARE DOING NOW.

AFTER ALL THIS TIME YOU HAVEN'T REALLY CHANGED AT ALL, HAVE YOU?



WRONG.

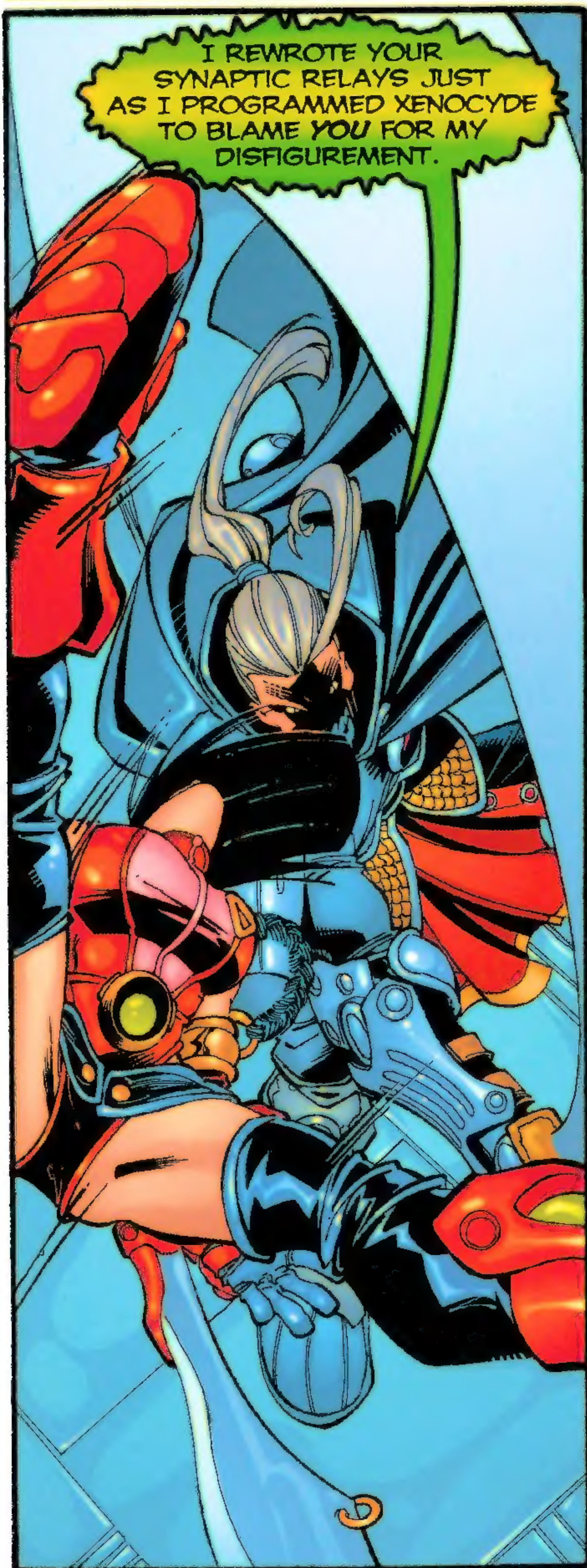


I HAVE CHANGED!

I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING OF THIS-- BUT I KNOW IT'S TRUE!

JUST LIKE YOU IT'S TOO SICK NOT TO BE!

OF COURSE YOU DON'T REMEMBER. I DELETED THOSE MEMORIES.



I REWROTE YOUR SYNAPTIC RELAYS JUST AS I PROGRAMMED XENOCYDE TO BLAME YOU FOR MY DISFIGUREMENT.



I CONDITIONED HER TO INTERPRET THE PAIN I INFLICTED - HER PUNISHMENT FOR WHAT SHE DID - AS UNDYING DEVOTION TO ME. I TAUGHT

HER TO HATE YOU AS MUCH AS SHE LOVED ME.

BUT WHY?

IF YOU HATE HER SO MUCH, WHY NOT JUST KILL HER?



KILL HER?

SHE WAS A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT.

YOU - ON THE OTHER HAND - WERE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PROPOSITION.

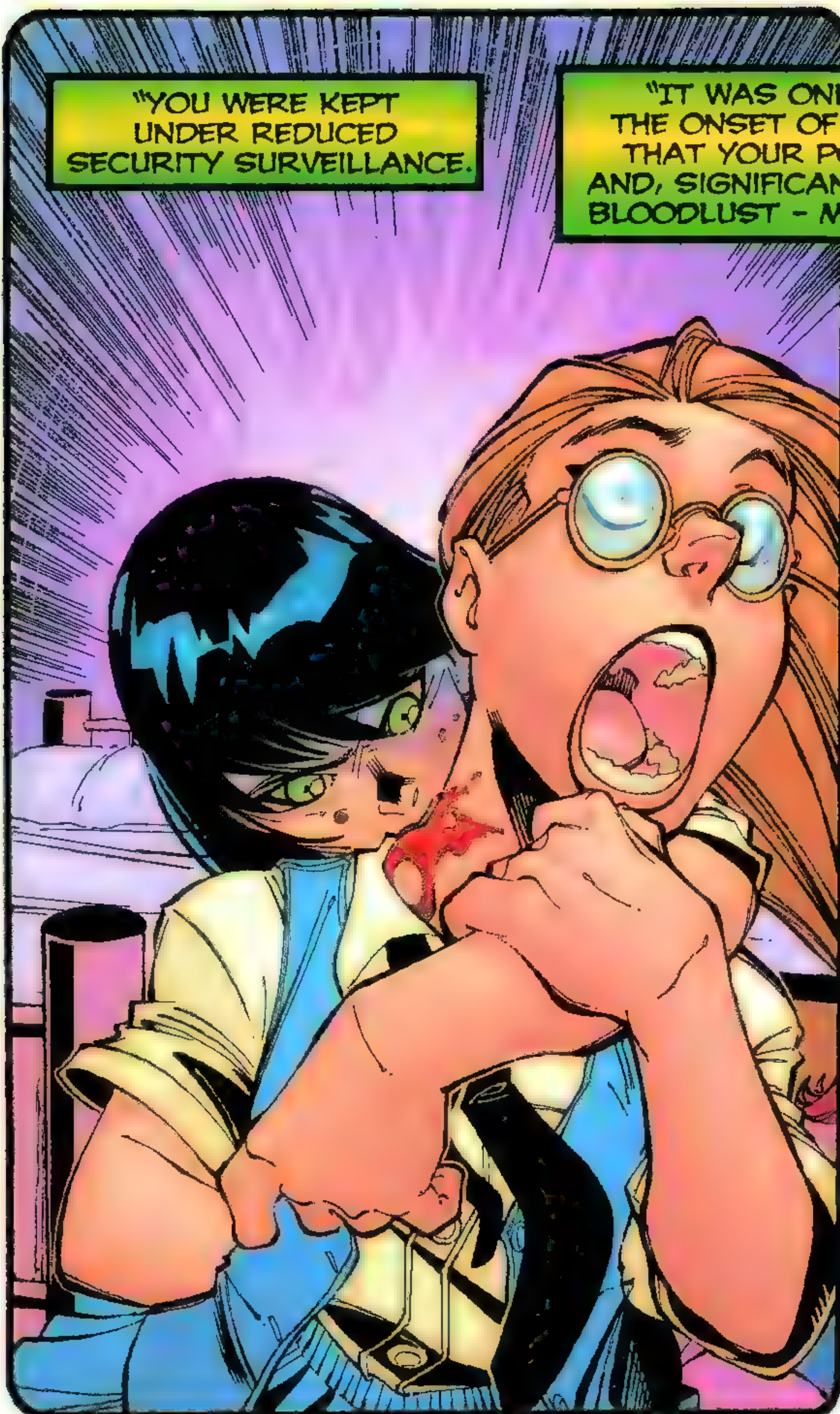


"UNLIKE YOUR SISTER
YOUR POWERS WERE
INITIALLY DORMANT.



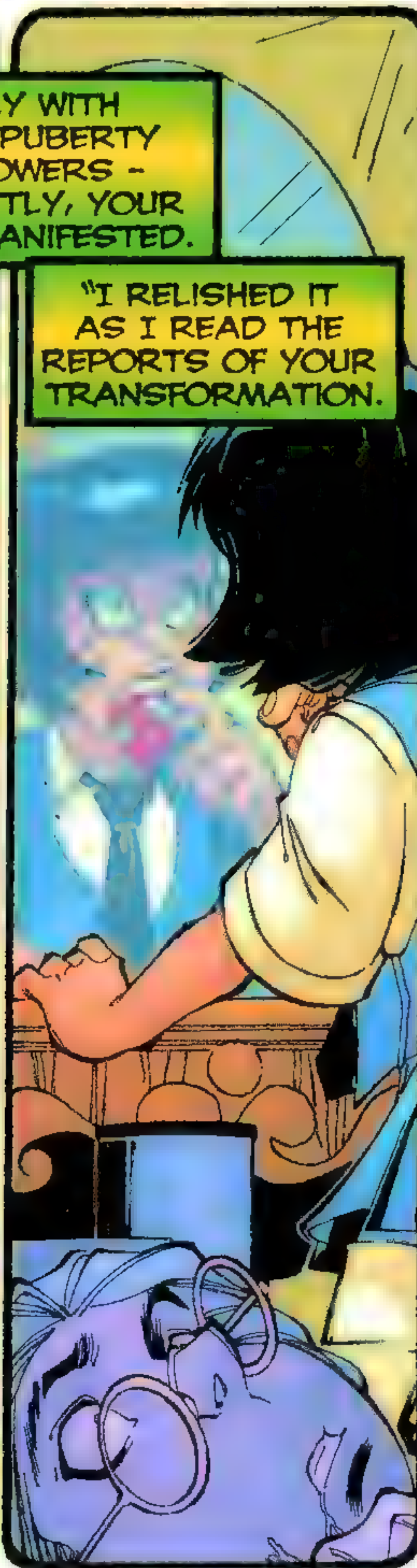
"AFTER ERASING YOUR
MEMORIES OF THE
XENOCYDE PROGRAM
YOU WERE EFFECTIVELY
'MOTHBALLED' ...

" -- AND RELOCATED TO
ONE OF THE INSTITUTIONS
WE USED AS A POOL FOR
SUITABLE TEST SUBJECTS.

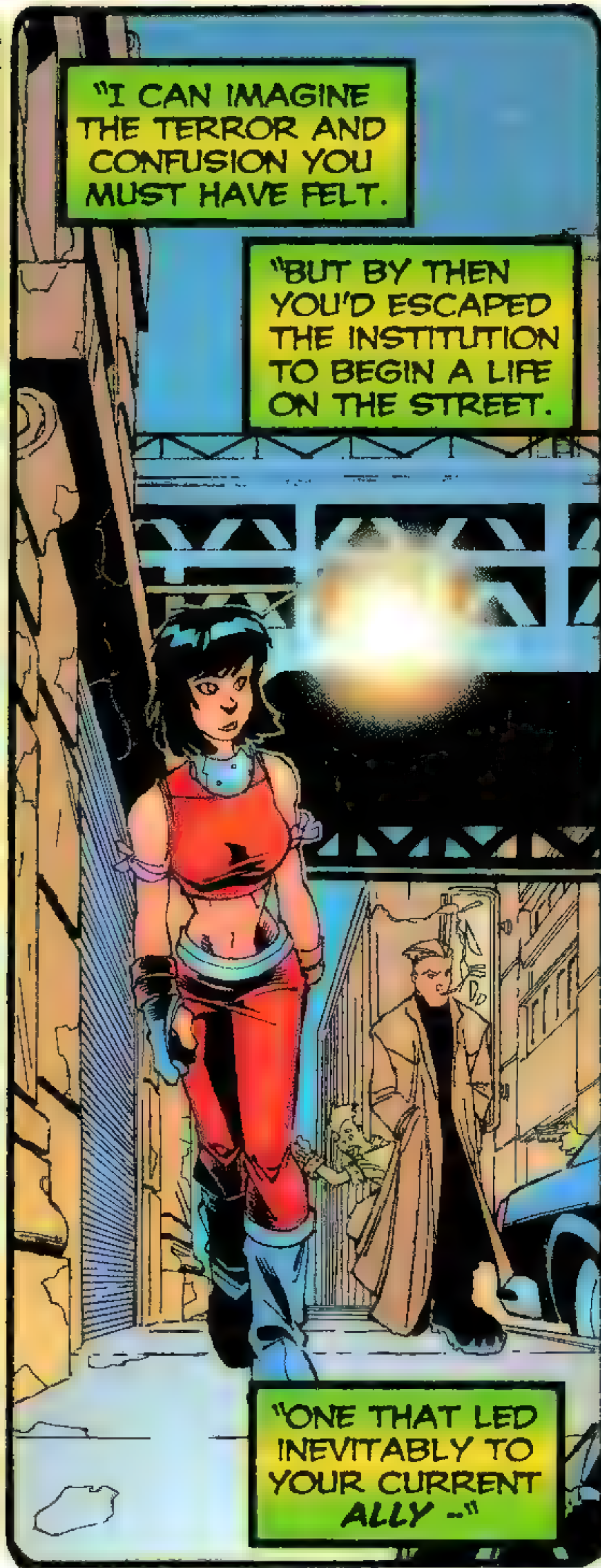


"YOU WERE KEPT
UNDER REDUCED
SECURITY SURVEILLANCE.

"IT WAS ONLY WITH
THE ONSET OF PUBERTY
THAT YOUR POWERS -
AND, SIGNIFICANTLY, YOUR
BLOODLUST - MANIFESTED.



"I RELISHED IT
AS I READ THE
REPORTS OF YOUR
TRANSFORMATION.



"I CAN IMAGINE
THE TERROR AND
CONFUSION YOU
MUST HAVE FELT.

"BUT BY THEN
YOU'D ESCAPED
THE INSTITUTION
TO BEGIN A LIFE
ON THE STREET.

"ONE THAT LED
INEVITABLY TO
YOUR CURRENT
ALLY -"

"... JACOB JONES."

OKAY,
THIS IS IT.

NEVERLAND
IS FINISHED.

AND WE'VE
GOT A POSITIVE
FIX ON VAMPI.

IF SHE'S
STILL THERE, I'LL
WILLING TO BET THAT
ARCHANGEL AND THE
LADDER ARE, TOO.

WELL,
GENTLEMEN, IT'S
TIME YOU EARNED
YOUR SALARIES.

LET'S GO
TO WORK.

THIS IS THE
ENDGAME.

INEVITABLE
AS IT IS, IT'S ALMOST
A PITY THINGS HAVE TO
END THIS WAY.

STILL,
YOU BROUGHT IT
ON YOURSELF.

AND
SENTIMENTALITY
IS A *WEAKNESS*
I ABHOR.

THERE WILL
BE NO ROOM FOR
WEAKNESS IN THE NEW
WORLD ORDER. THAT
IS MY *GIFT* TO
HUMANITY.

LOOK
AROUND - SOON
THIS WILL BE ALL OF
YOUR WORLD.

BARBARIY
IS HUMANITY'S
NATURAL
STATE.

PHAGE
LIBERATED THEM
FROM THE REPRESSION
OF CIVILIZATION.

LOOK AT THEM-
A CANNIBAL TRIBE LIKE
MANKIND'S EARLIEST
ANCESTORS HURLING STONES
AT THE MOON, INTERPRETING
LIGHTING AS THE *WRATH*
OF GOD.

AND I AM
THEIR *GOD*-- WIELDING
THE ULTIMATE POWER OF
LIFE AND DEATH
OVER THEM.

I CAN
FLOOD THEIR
CAGES WITH LETHAL
GAS --

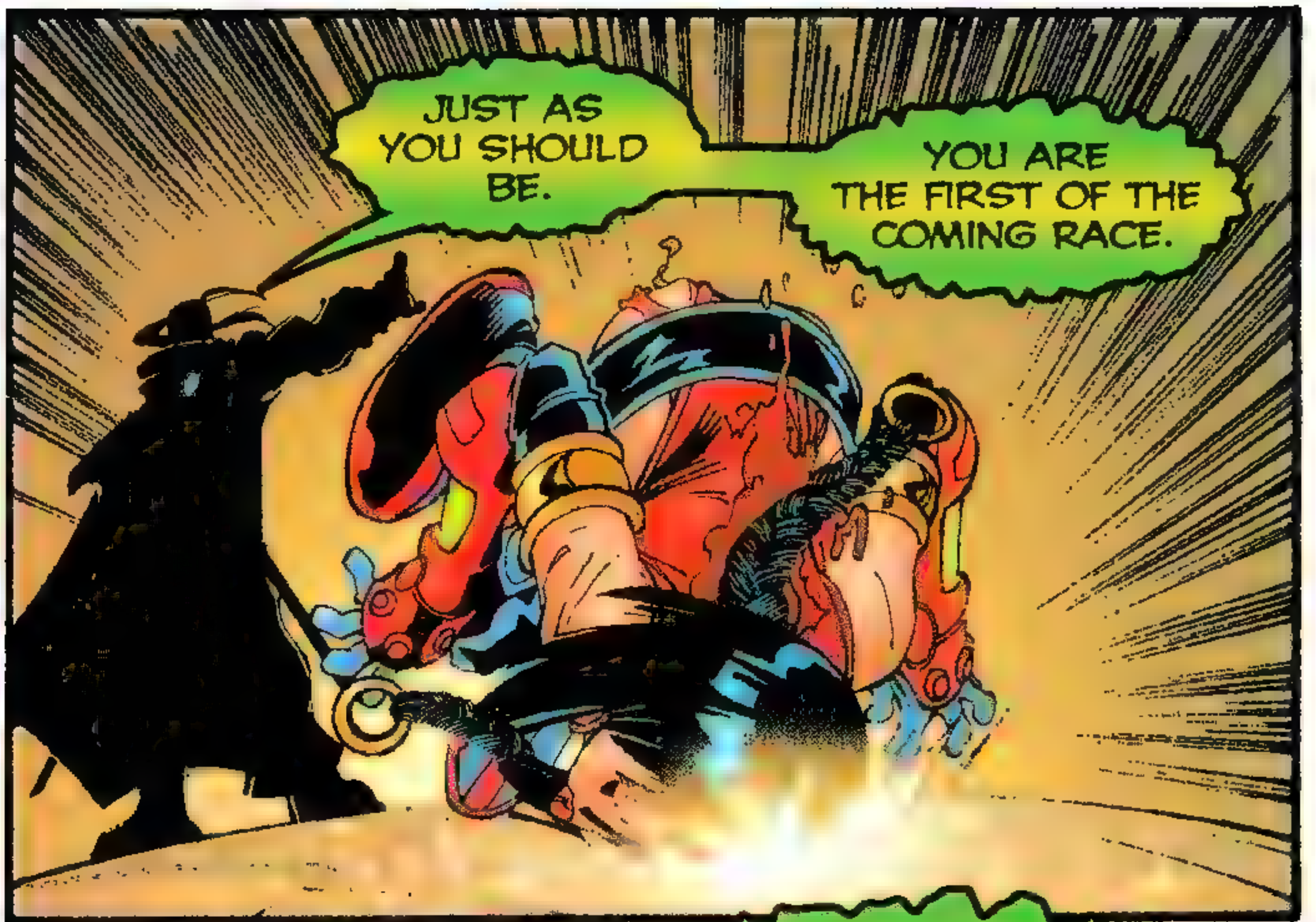
-- OR
FREE THEM.



WHAT THE MEDIA CALL "ANARCHY IN THE USA" IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

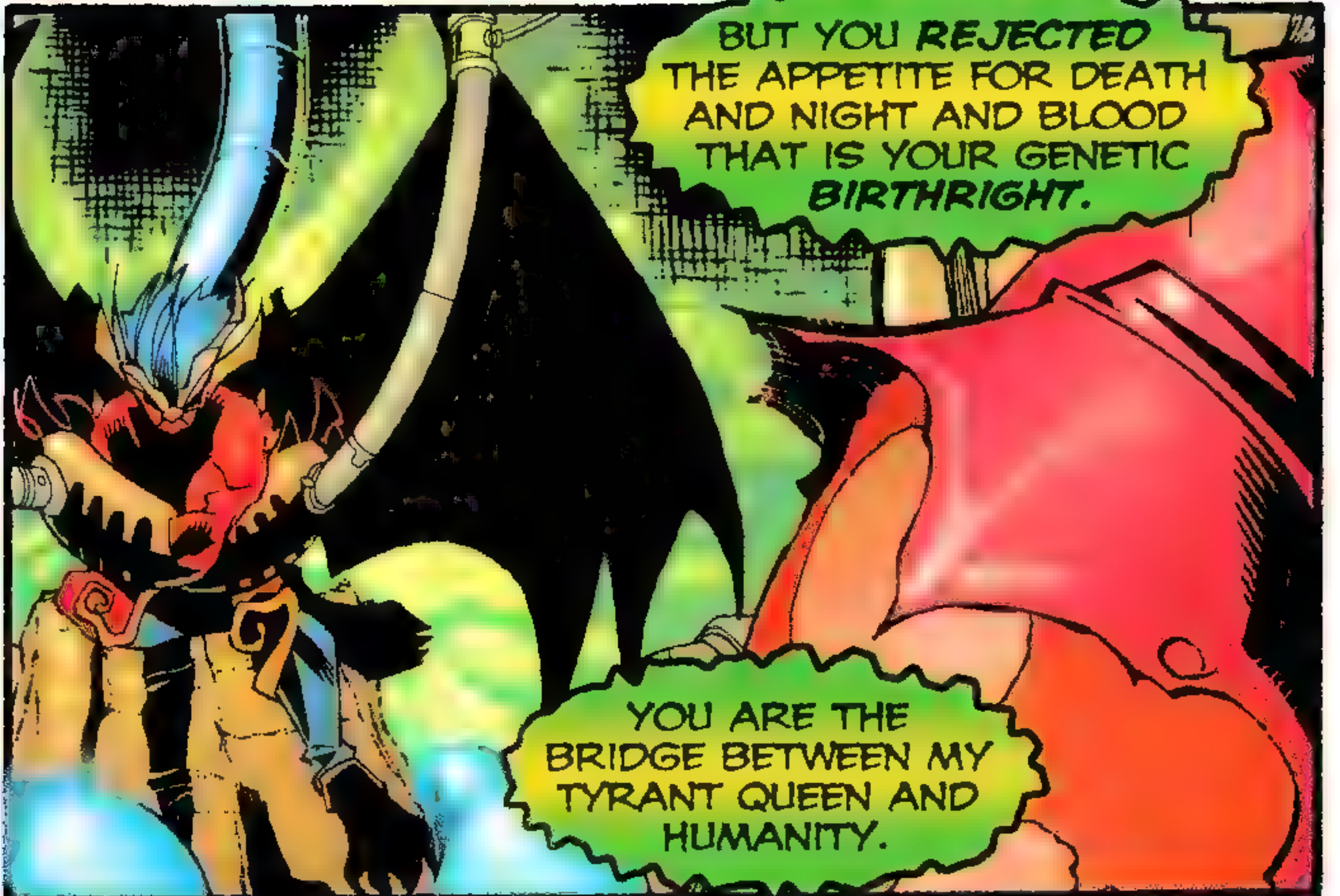
ONCE FREED, MY CHILDREN WILL INDULGE THEIR APPETITES, **REVELLING** IN A HOLOCAUST OF ECSTASY OF FREEDOM.

FREE AND WILD - BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL ...



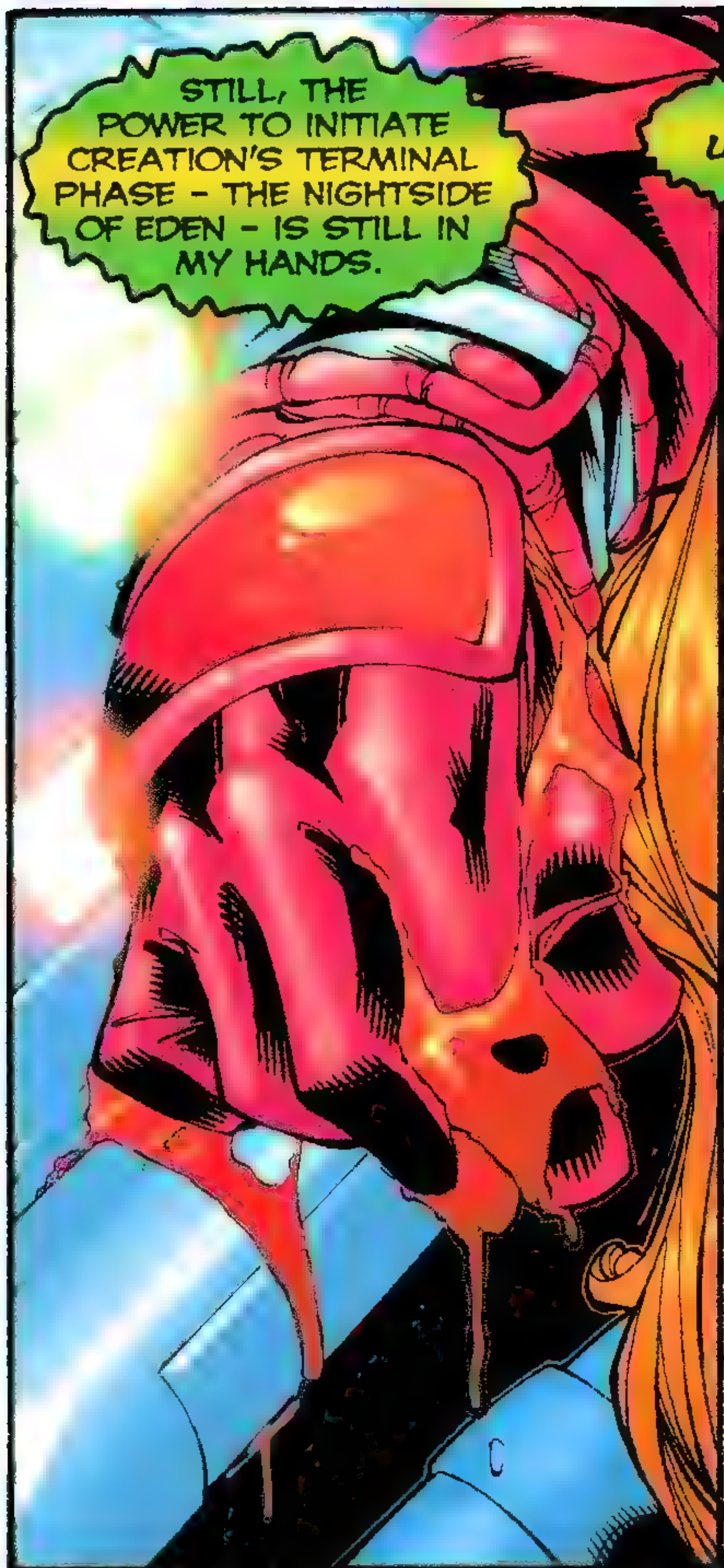
JUST AS YOU SHOULD BE.

YOU ARE THE FIRST OF THE COMING RACE.



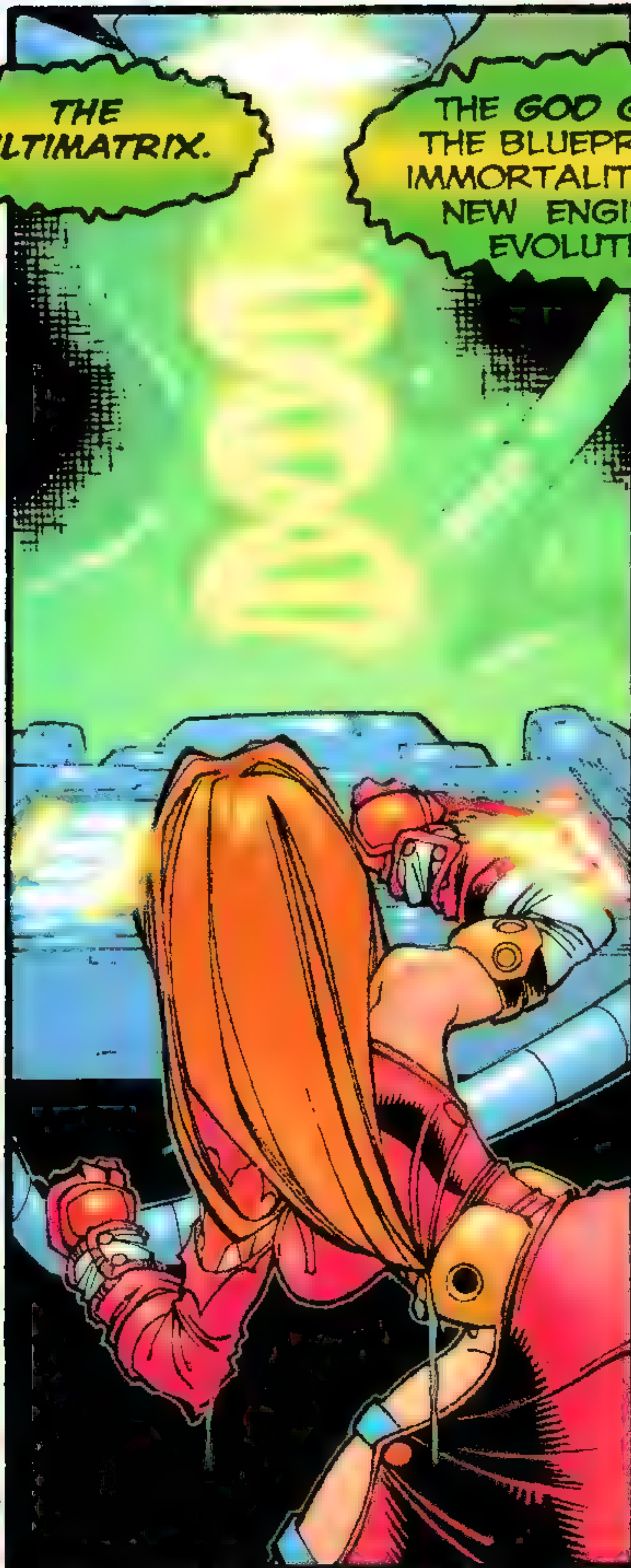
BUT YOU REJECTED THE APPETITE FOR DEATH AND NIGHT AND BLOOD THAT IS YOUR GENETIC BIRTHRIGHT.

YOU ARE THE BRIDGE BETWEEN MY TYRANT QUEEN AND HUMANITY.

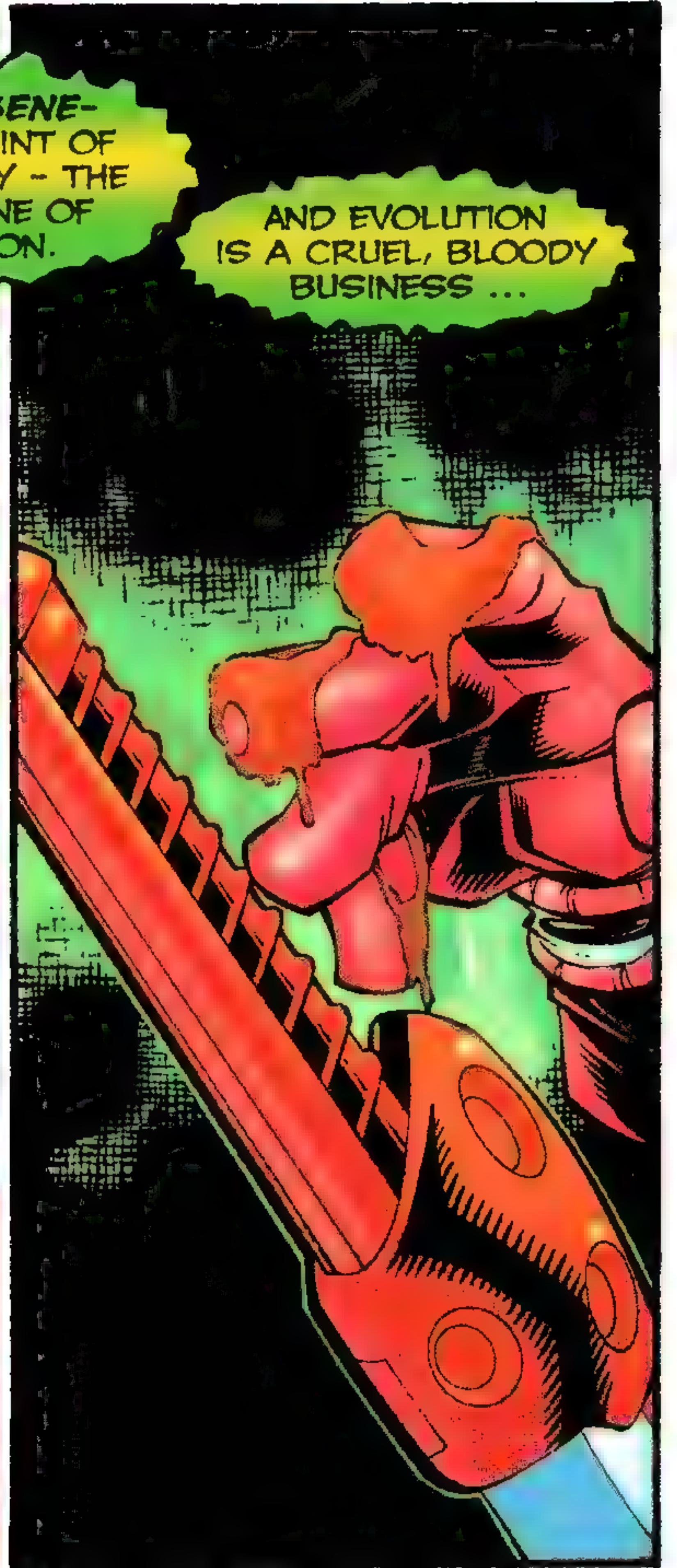


STILL, THE POWER TO INITIATE CREATION'S TERMINAL PHASE - THE NIGHTSIDE OF EDEN - IS STILL IN MY HANDS.

THE ULTIMATRIX.



THE GOD GENE - THE BLUEPRINT OF IMMORTALITY - THE NEW ENGINE OF EVOLUTION.



AND EVOLUTION IS A CRUEL, BLOODY BUSINESS ...



ONE MUST
DESTROY IN
ORDER TO --



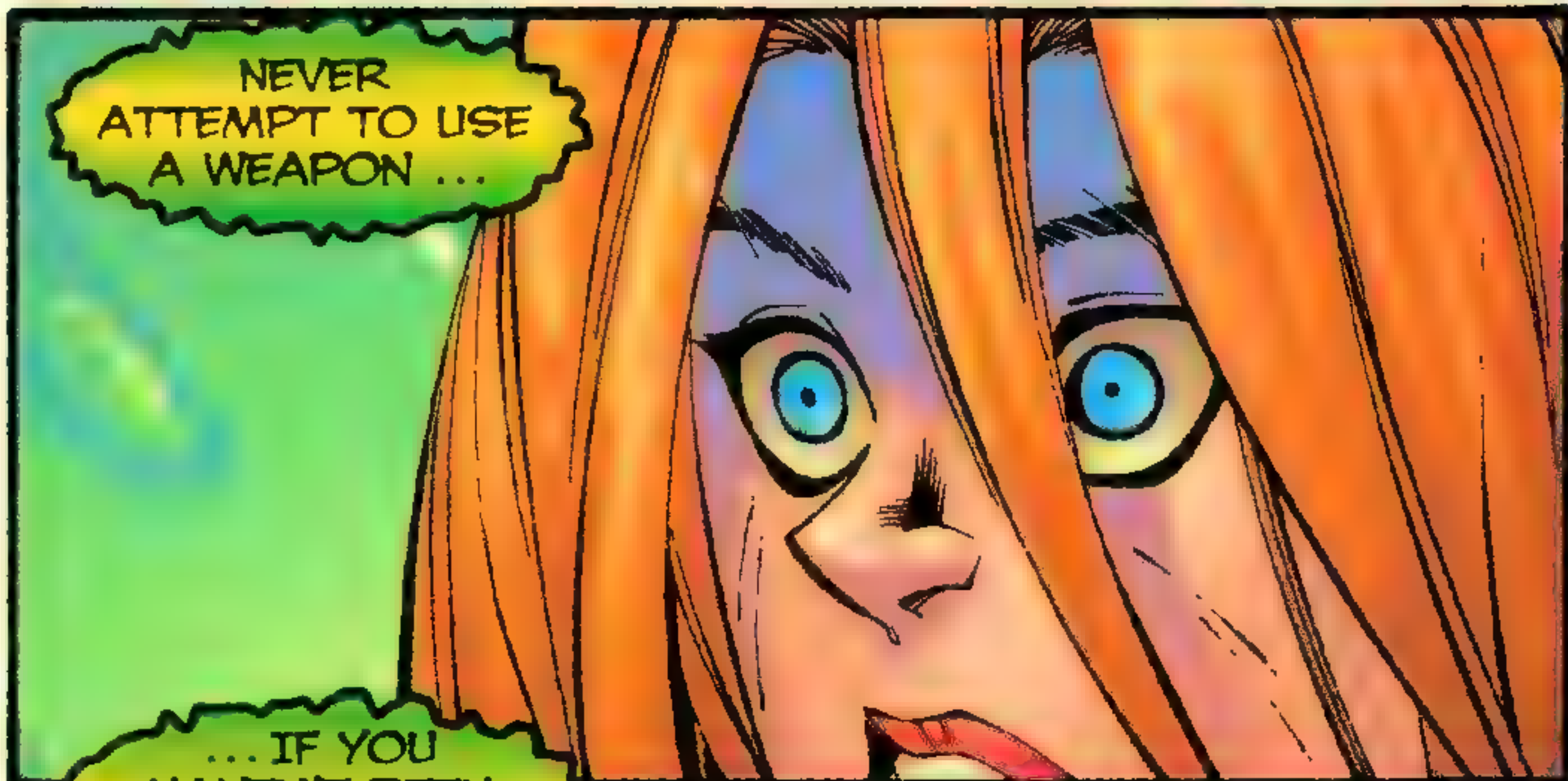
ARCHANGEL!!

XENOCYDE... ?



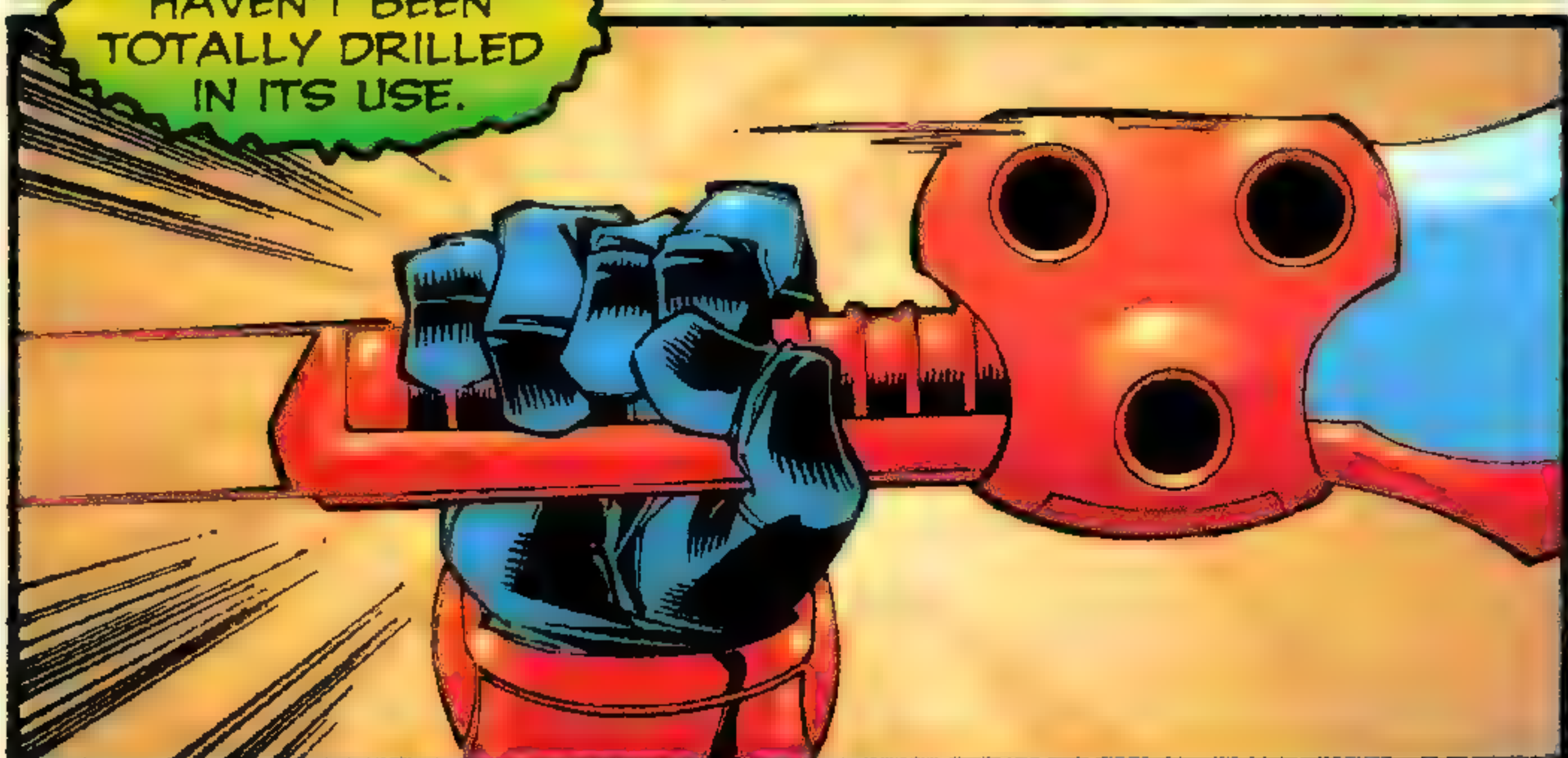
STILL
WITH US
I SEE.

HAVEN'T
YOU LEARNED
ANYTHING?



NEVER
ATTEMPT TO USE
A WEAPON ...

... IF YOU
HAVEN'T BEEN
TOTALLY DRILLED
IN ITS USE.



GOOD
ADVICE.



LET'S SEE
IF YOU TAKE IT AS
WELL AS YOU DISH
IT OUT!

AAAAHHHHH



YOU...
FOOL... THIS IS...
NOTHING.
I...
CANNOT...
DIE.

INTERESTING
THEORY.



LET'S
TEST IT!

NNNAAARGHHH



I'VE WASTED
ENOUGH TIME ON
YOU ALREADY.



C'MON, IT'S TIME WE GOT OUT OF THIS CESSPIT-- THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT?

I ... I GUESS SO...

GOOD-- BUT FIRST JUST ANSWER ME ONE THING--



-- WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

THE ULTIMATRIX... THE KEY TO... EVERYTHING.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW EXACTLY.



NO? DON'T WORRY.

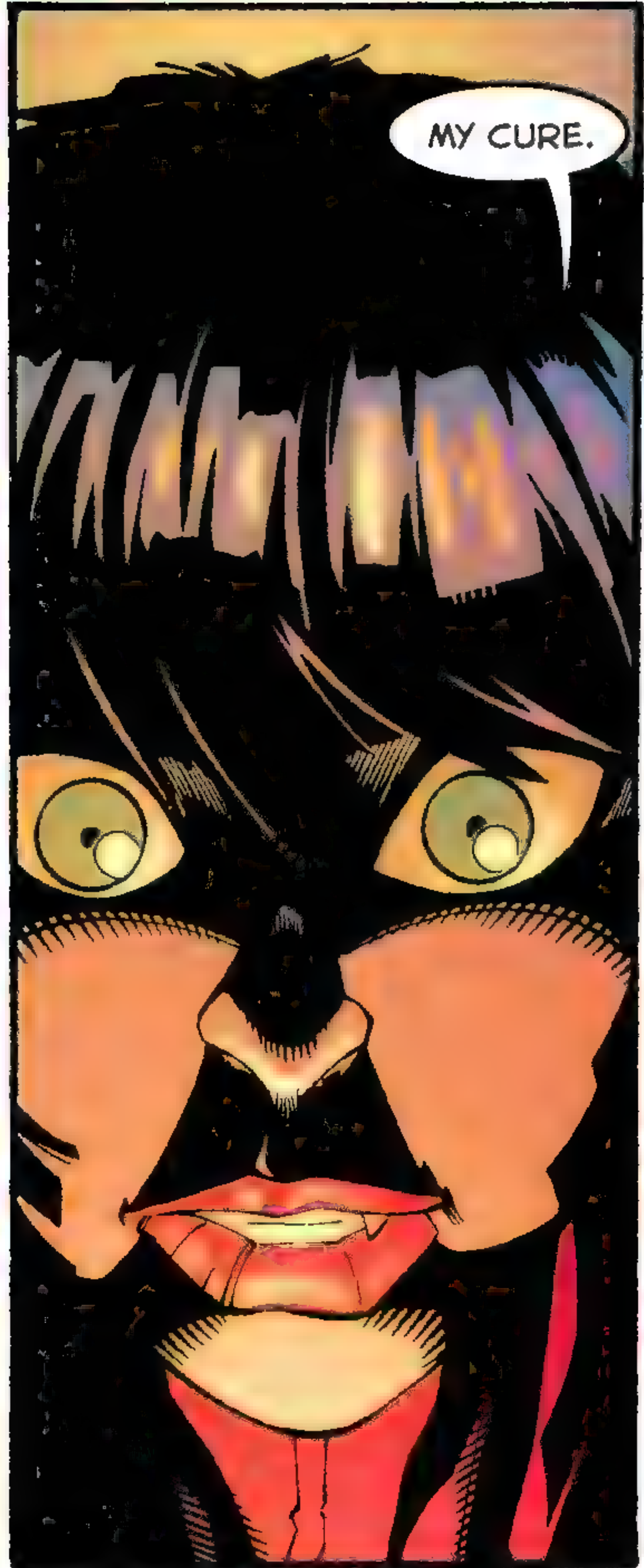
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO WILL.



AND THAT-- IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN-- BELONGS TO HIM!



THE LADDER.



MY CURE.





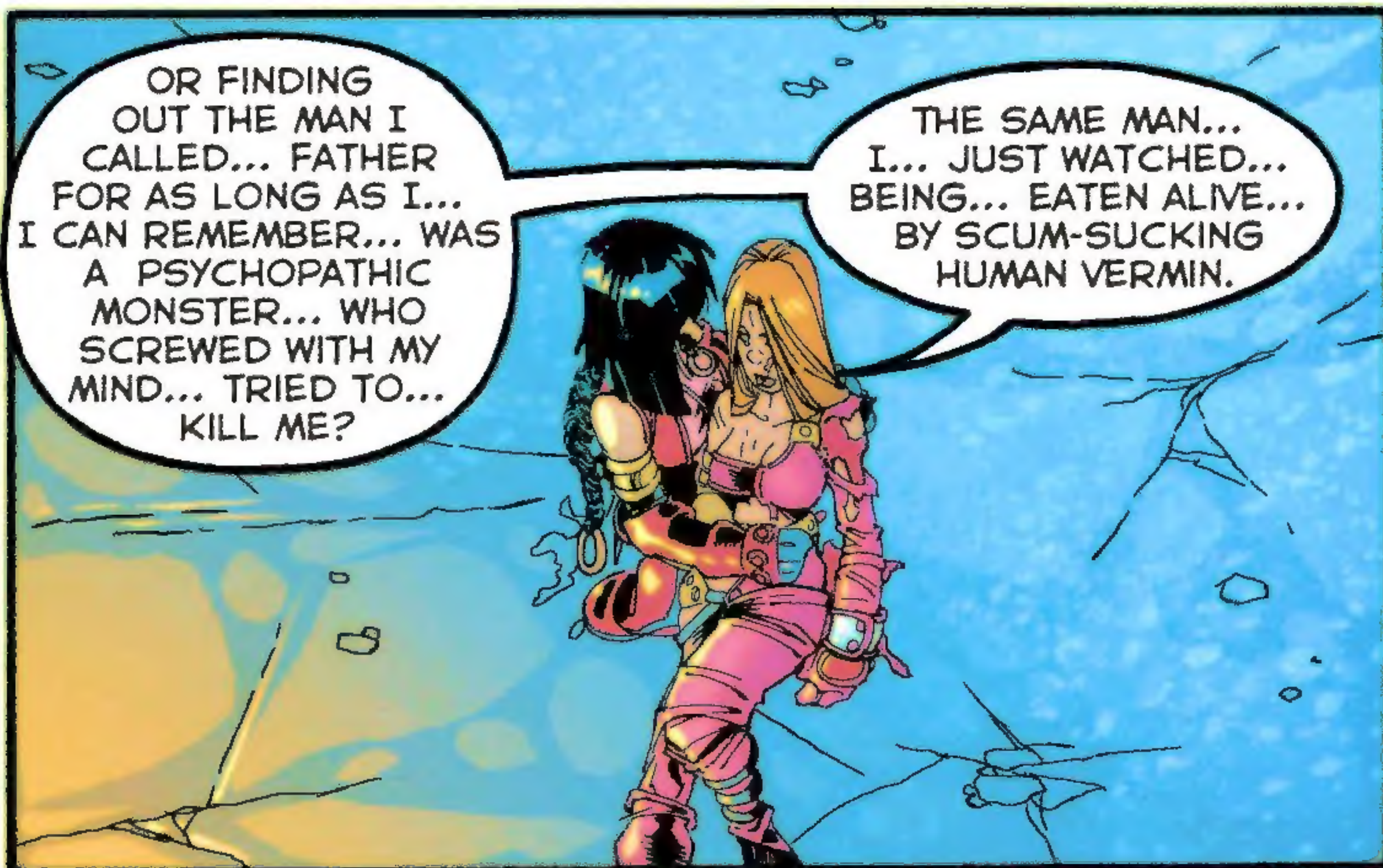


ALL RIGHT,
WE'RE SAFE
NOW.

HOW ARE
YOU... FEELING?
ARE YOU...
OKAY?

HOW AM I ...
FEELING?

APART FROM
LEAVING HALF MY
GUTS ... ON THE
FLOOR BACK
THERE?



OR FINDING
OUT THE MAN I
CALLED... FATHER
FOR AS LONG AS I...
I CAN REMEMBER... WAS
A PSYCHOPATHIC
MONSTER... WHO
SCREWED WITH MY
MIND... TRIED TO...
KILL ME?

THE SAME MAN...
I... JUST WATCHED...
BEING... EATEN ALIVE...
BY SCUM-SUCKING
HUMAN VERMIN.



AND THEN...
THEN THERE'S...
YOU.

I WAS
PROGRAMMED...
TO HATE YOU.

FUNNY, HUH...
MY LONG-LOST SISTER...
MY WORST ENEMY ... ONE
AND THE SAME.

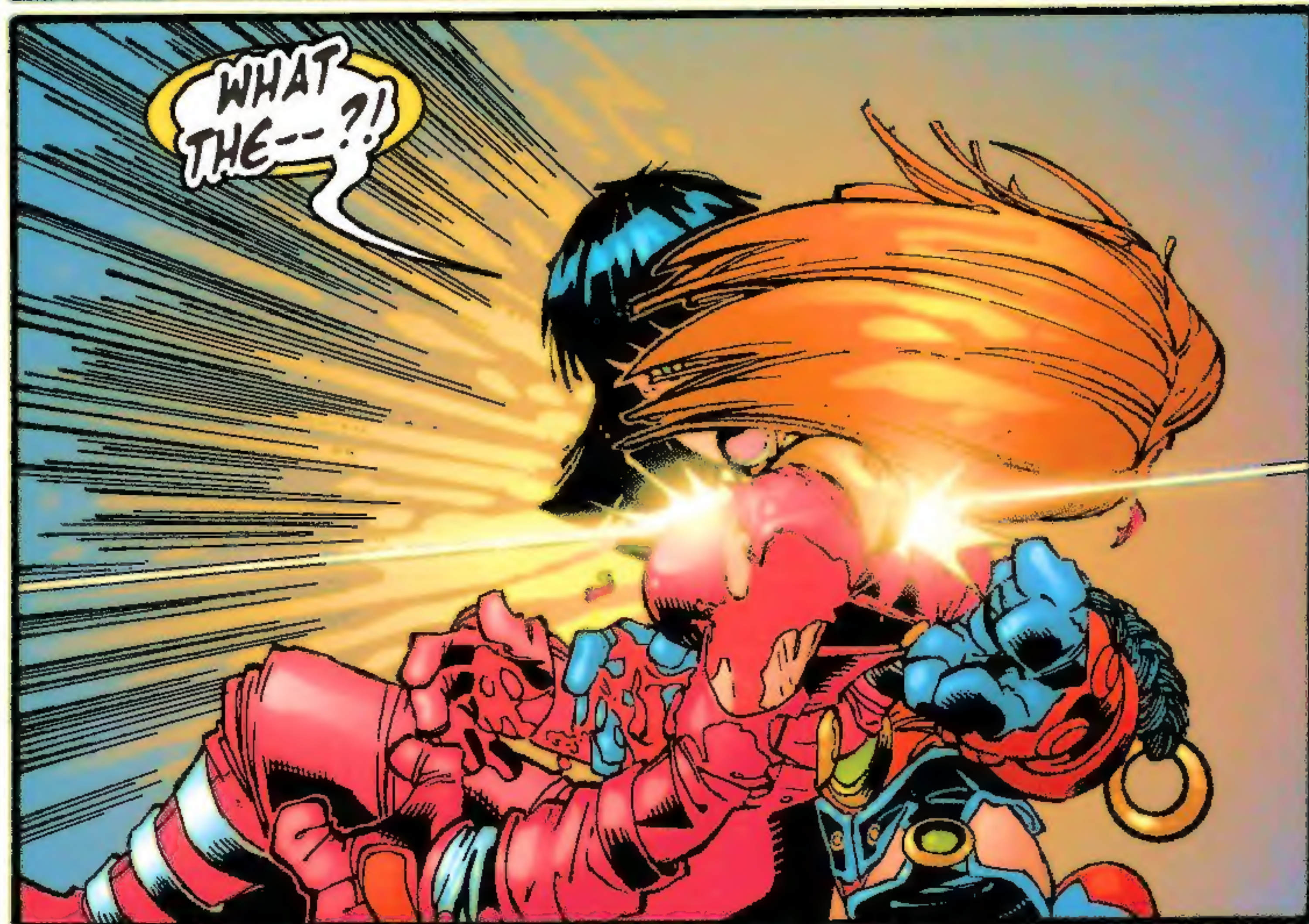


SO...
TO ANSWER...
YOUR QUESTION,
VAMPI.

OKAY IS...
NOT... HOW I'D
DESCRIBE... THE
WAY I... FEEL.

SURE-- I
UNDERSTAND.

BUT THERE
ARE PEOPLE WHO
CAN HELP AND --



WHAT
THE--?!



HELLO,
VAMPI.

AREN'T YOU
PLEASED TO SEE
ME ...?



-- I'VE BEEN
WORRIED SICK
ABOUT YOU!



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CONWAY
BARBERI
VLASCO

DYNAMITE



Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE